

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A latching mechanism arranged to receive a locking member of a lock, the mechanism comprising a means for blocking movement of the locking member in a first direction and permitting movement of the locking member in the first direction by movement in a direction transverse to the first direction and a pawl ~~engagemenable~~ engageable with the blocking means, the mechanism further comprising an electrical actuator which is in contact with an index member to electrically control the pawl, the index member and the pawl member each being provided with a plurality of protrusions, wherein the index member is manually moveable between a first default position whereby the protrusions of the pawl are aligned with the protrusions of the index member to enable the latching mechanism to be in a normally locked position and a second default position whereby the protrusions of the pawl are misaligned with the protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be in a normally unlocked position ~~the pawl being electrically controllable in order to selectively control operation of the blocking means.~~
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) A latching mechanism according to claim 1 wherein the actuator is a piezo electric actuator.
4. (Previously Presented) A latching mechanism according to claim 1, wherein movement of the actuator causes alignment between protrusions of the pawl and protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be in a locked condition.
5. (Currently Amended) A latching mechanism according to claim 1, wherein movement of the actuator causes misalignment of the protrusions of the pawl and

the protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be in an unlocked condition.

6. (Currently Amended) A latching mechanism according to claim ~~2~~ 3, wherein movement of the actuator causes alignment between protrusions of the pawl and protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be in a locked condition.

7. (Currently Amended) A latching mechanism according to claim ~~2~~ 3, wherein movement of the actuator causes misalignment of the protrusions of the pawl and the protrusions of the index member, to enable the latching mechanism to be in an unlocked condition.